HJR164

VAWTPLP-1

By Representatives Mooney, Almond, Baker, Bedsole, Blackshear, Bolton, Boyd, Bracy, Brinyark, Brown, Butler, Carns, Chestnut, Clarke, Clouse, Collins, Colvin, Crawford, Daniels, Drummond, DuBose, Easterbrook, Ellis, England, Ensler, Estes, Faulkner, Fidler, Fincher, Forte, Garrett, Gidley, Givan, Givens, Gray, Hall, Hammett, Harbison, Harrison, Hassell, Hendrix, Hill, Holk-Jones, Hollis, Hulsey, Hurst, Ingram, Jackson, Jones, Kiel, Kirkland, Lamb, Lands, Lawrence, Ledbetter, Lee, Lipscomb, Lomax, Lovvorn, Marques, McCampbell, McClammy, Moore (M), Moore (P), Morris, Oliver, Paramore, Paschal, Pettus, Pringle, Rafferty, Rehm, Reynolds, Rigsby, Robbins, Robertson, Sellers, Sells, Shaver, Shaw, Shedd, Shirey, Simpson, Smith, Sorrells, Stadthagen, Standridge, Starnes, Stringer, Stubbs, Tillman, Travis, Treadaway, Underwood, Wadsworth, Warren, Whitt, Whorton, Wilcox, Wood (D), Wood (R), Woods, Yarbrough

RFD:

First Read: 04-Apr-24

HJR____ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN MICHAEL KOLEN.

WHEREAS, it is with deep sadness that we note the passing of John Michael "Mike" Kolen of Birmingham, Alabama, on April 3, 2024, at the age of 76; and

WHEREAS, his passing leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the Auburn, Birmingham, Miami, and Montgomery communities he called home, where he was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Mike Kolen was born on January 31, 1948; he attended W.A. Berry High School in Hoover, Alabama, where he was a star on the football team; he matriculated to Auburn University and played Linebacker position under Coaches Shug Jordan and Paul Davis; he remained a loyal and dedicated alumnus to his alma mater and returned every A-Day to present the Mike Kolen Award to the leading tackler from the previous season; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with the Auburn Tigers, Mr. Kolen led in tackles in 16 of the 25 games he started from 1967 to 1969, earning All-SEC honors as a junior and senior and was named Second-team All-American in 1969; he was nicknamed "Captain Crunch" for his hard-hitting style, but he was also a man of deep faith and was the first recipient of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes College

Athlete of the Year Award in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Mike Kolen was drafted to the Miami Dolphins in 1970, Round 12, pick 289; he played eight seasons with the Dolphins under Coach Don Shula and was part of the "Perfect" 1972 unbeaten Super Bowl Champion team, the only undefeated Super Bowl champion team in NFL history; he played in three consecutive Super Bowls with the Dolphins in 1972, 1973, and 1974, and won both the 1972 and 1973 Super Bowls; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from the NFL, Mike Kolen became a successful businessman; he enjoyed success in real estate, as the owner and operator of the Montgomery Athletic Club, and as the founder of Kolen Finacial Team; he authored *The Greatest Team: A Playbook for Champions*; and he was inducted into Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Mike Kolen had a fierce love for his family; he was predeceased by his wife of 45 years, Nancy Kolen; he is survived by his two children, Kelly and John, and his five grandchildren, whom he treasured wholeheartedly; although his presence will be greatly missed, the memory of Mike Kolen will be cherished in the hearts of all who knew and loved him; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the death of John Michael "Mike" Kolen is recorded with deep sadness, and this resolution is offered in tribute to his life and with heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by many.